

SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Coal Shortage and Production

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1. Under the auspices of the Polish-DDR collaboration agreement, 2,000 German workers were brought to the coal mines and steel plants of the Katowice region in June 1951 for Polish utilization in these industries.* [redacted] military units are also being increasingly used in coal mines which until recently have been closed down since before WW-II.** The adoption of the policy of utilization of military units to increase coal production has been forced upon the government in order to meet both domestic requirements and the increasing demands of the USSR. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
2. Due to a coal shortage, production in the Kara Foundry in Piotrkow was brought to a stand-still on 15 September 1951. To date [redacted] only 850 tons of the allotted 2,900 tons of coal have been received by the factory. The coal supply is now completely depleted forcing suspended operations. 50X1-HUM

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* [redacted] Comment: The German workers were given better living conditions than the Poles causing considerable resentment among the Polish miners and workmen. [redacted] this action was taken for "propaganda reasons". 50X1-HUM

** [redacted] Comment: [redacted] the shortage of miners is acute, which condition was accentuated following WW-II by the repatriation of former German PW's. When the attempt to utilize the Sluzba Polscia (Service to Poland) youths failed in the summer of 1950, Polish authorities inaugurated the policy of employing members of organized military units who lacked previous military service. [redacted] Polish soldiers were employed in all five of the Zabrze (50° 19' N, 18° 47' E) coal mines. 50X1-HUM

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